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SIPDIS

STATE ALSO PASS TO USAID  
STATE FOR TSUNAMI TASK FORCE 1  
USAID/W FOR A/AID ANDREW NATSIOS, JBRAUSE  
DCHA/OFDA KISAACS, GGOTTLIEB, MMARX, RTHAYER, BDEEMER  
AID/W FOR DCHA/OFDA  
TSUNAMI RESPONSE MANAGEMENT TEAM

SIPDIS  
DCHA/FFP FOR LAUREN LANDIS  
DCHA BUREAU FOR ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR ROGER WINTER  
ANE DEPUTY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR MARK WARD  
BANGKOK FOR OFDA SENIOR REGIONAL ADVISOR TOM DOLAN  
KATHMANDU FOR OFDA REGIONAL ADVISOR WILLIAM BERGER  
GENEVA FOR USAID KYLOH  
ROME PASS FODAG  
NSC FOR MELINE  
CDR USPACOM FOR J3/J4/POLAD  
USEU PASS USEC

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [EAID](#) [AEMR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CE](#)  
SUBJECT: SRI LANKA - EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMIS: USAID/DART  
SITREP #11

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SUMMARY  
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1. As of January 25, according to the Center for National Operations (CNO), the earthquake and tsunamis had killed 30,957 people in Sri Lanka. USAID/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) implementing partner Community Habitat Finance International (CHF) is constructing 3,500 transitional shelters in 3 divisions of Galle and Matara districts over the next 6 months. The transfer of authority for water distributions in Galle from the U.S. Military to the Galle Water Board continues as planned, with the complete transfer expected to take place on January 28. The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is conducting needs assessments in Sri Lanka. End summary.

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Death Tolls  
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2. The CNO, which is responsible for the overall coordination of the relief effort in Sri Lanka, reports that as of January 25 at 1600 hours local time, the earthquake and tsunamis had killed 30,957 people, injured 15,196 residents, displaced 502,456 persons, completely damaged 78,407 houses, and partially damaged 41,097 houses. Currently there are 5,644 persons missing. According to the CNO, there are 320 camps housing displaced persons. [Note: The significant increase in the number of displaced persons is due to the fact that previous CNO's figures did not include complete numbers for displaced persons in Galle District. The numbers of displaced persons for Ampara District have not been included in the total number of displaced persons, so it is anticipated that this number may also increase. End Note.]

3. The USAID/Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) also reports that the Sri Lankan Police and local Government Agents use two differing systems to report numbers of dead, missing, and displaced persons, and this has led to a discrepancy in numbers.

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Community Habitat Finance International: Working to Rebuild  
Homes and Communities in Galle and Matara districts  
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4. According to USAID/OFDA implementing partner CHF, more than 55 families displaced by the December earthquake and tsunamis have been residing in close quarters for over one

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month at the Kurup Kanda Temple in Hikkaduwa. One fisherman in the camp advised CHF that quote tensions are running high with everyone still living in tents and now we are ready to move into a more permanent house so that we can return to our work end quote.

15. CHF will provide residents of this site and other sites in Galle and Matara districts with sturdy, transitional housing units, in an effort to restore some sense of normalcy back into people's lives. In mid-January, CHF built the first transitional shelter prototype at Kurup Kanda Temple. In existence for less than a week, the prototype is already serving as a multi-purpose center for mobile health clinics, as a distribution site for food and emergency relief supplies, and as a clearing site for incoming donations to the Kurup Kanda Temple camp.

16. CHF reported that internally displaced persons (IDPs) at the camp have provided positive feedback about the shelter unit, which provides more than 200 square feet of space per family, which exceeds international Sphere standards for emergency housing. One resident who has been staying in the camp since the tsunami struck stated quote I like the shelter because it provides a clean floor for my baby to play on - it is safer than the tent and more of a home for my family end quote.

17. Designed locally by the CHF/Sri Lanka team, the shelter units are constructed with low-cost, reusable materials. Families will have the ability to adapt the standard design to their own needs, by adding interior dividing units and semi-permanent walls. Once families construct permanent homes, the shelters can be disassembled and the materials re-used or sold.

18. Interactive training sessions will introduce members of the community to construction techniques. Materials including steel tubes, corrugated aluminum roofing, and cement for the shelter base will be distributed to families in several stages over the coming weeks. While most families will construct their own shelters, some of the more vulnerable families, such as female-headed households and those with elderly residents, will be provided with construction assistance.

19. CHF will construct 3,500 transitional shelters in 3 divisions of Galle and Matara districts over the coming 6 months. With its local non-governmental organization (NGO) partner, the Arthacharya Foundation, CHF will also implement quick-impact projects in tandem with shelter construction, to positively affect the physical and social infrastructure of communities in tsunami-affected areas. Projects will include activities such as: latrine construction, provision of water pumps, construction of childrens' play areas, clean-up projects, solid waste management and support for livelihood activities.

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Situation in Galle  
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10. On January 24, a USAID/DART Military Liaison Officer (MLO) visited Galle to coordinate activities with the U.S. Military. The USAID/DART MLO reported that an NGO, the Maltese Order, has donated 5 additional trucks to the Galle Water Board, which now has access to an additional 9 trucks, for a total of 14. The German NGO, Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) has inspected and sanitized the trucks. The Indian Military is completing repairs to the main water line that runs north of Galle town. The transfer of authority for water distributions in Galle from the U.S. Military to the Galle Water Board continues as planned, with the complete transfer expected to take place on January 28.

11. The Ministry of Health (MOH) is coordinating latrine construction at schools that will be undertaken by USAID/OFDA implementing partners the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Vision.

12. According to the USAID/DART MLO, IDPs must currently obtain three signatures from authorized officials to leave an IDP camp in order to maintain their eligibility for ration cards. Some questions are being raised about the equity of this control system. [Note: The USAID/DART MLO will follow-up on this issue. End Note.]

13. USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) continues work on a USAID/OFDA-funded cash-for-work debris removal project north of Galle. On January 25, the project employed 1,000 persons to clear and separate debris on private and public lands. The Road Development Authority is performing continual road clearing both north and south of Galle city. As of January 25, there are 40 camps in the Galle area, and the number of camps is reducing daily.

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Food  
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14. According to the CNO, adequate stocks of food are available at the district level. The Ministry of Relief, Rehabilitation, and Reconciliation and Ministry of Social

Welfare continue to transport basic commodities to the districts. The USAID/DART reported that WFP is fully resourced to supply food to 750,000 beneficiaries until June 130. WFP is currently undertaking a needs assessment, and there may be changes in targeting based upon this assessment. WFP, in conjunction with UNICEF, is also carrying out a rapid nutritional status assessment of children. Starting January 25, WFP is initiating a supplementary feeding program for expectant and nursing mothers and children under 10 years of age. The CNO stated that the types of protein in the diet of IDPs needs to be improved, and WFP is examining alternative sources of protein.

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Protection  
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115. The CNO reports that the issue of unaccompanied children remains a concern, and the registration of unaccompanied and separated children continues at the district level. The CNO is currently attempting to register those children who were not registered during the first phase of registration and are not living in the camps. The CNO stated that a few cases of sexual abuse in IDP camps were reported, but not officially. The CNO has requested that the Police Department set up a unit at the National Child Protection Authority (NCPA) to investigate these complaints. The Womens' and Childrens' Bureau of the police is also responding to complaints. The CNO has also issued instructions to relevant GOSL authorities to take action to register all orphans and prevent the trafficking of children. [Note: USAID/OFDA has provided USD 350,000 to the American Center for International Labor for psychological and social support, including anti-trafficking and USD 500,000 to UNICEF for child protection and psychological and social activities. End Note.]

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Praise for USAID/OFDA's Efforts in the Micro-finance Sector  
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116. On January 25, the USAID/Colombo Mission Director attended a meeting at the Sri Lankan Prime Minister's Office that included heads of District Chambers of Commerce, the Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises, donors, and GOSL officials. The Sri Lankan Prime Minister is extremely interested in micro, small, and medium enterprises and would like to revive this sector. However, many small and micro businesses are unable to obtain credit since they have no collateral. The Prime Minister upon hearing about USAID/OFDA's programs in this sector congratulated the USAID/Colombo Mission Director on the USAID/OFDA funded cash-for-work and livelihoods projects currently underway.

117. The Prime Minister and meeting participants were extremely impressed that USAID/OFDA programs in this area were currently operating on-the-ground and aiding survivors of the earthquake and tsunamis. The fact that USAID/OFDA's programs combine relief, shelter, livelihoods, and microfinance has made an impact on how quickly assistance can be rendered after a disaster. On January 27, USAID/OFDA contributed an additional USD 6 million to Nathan Associates who are working to help families, communities, and small businesses regain their lost livelihoods through micro-credit schemes and other targeted assistance. This additional funding will exponentially expand activities to address the battered small and medium enterprise sector in affected areas.

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USAID/DART Staffing  
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118. As of January 27, there are 12 members of the USAID/DART in Sri Lanka and Maldives. Of the 12 USAID/DART members, one individual is in Galle and another team member is in Male', Maldives.

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